



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting

Monday, May 14, 2018

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilman AC English
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson
Councilman Benton Blakely
County Administrator, David W. Epperson

Press in attendance: Manning Times, Laura Stone

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Robert Collar	Barbara Champagne	Wesley Terrill
Kathleen L. Gibson	Lisa Justice	Diana Green	Scott Brown
Annie S. Murray	Georgette Murray	Julius Adger	Tammy Rodvansky
Chris Lee	Jamie Welch	Cindy Risher	John Tindal
Tim Baxley	Connie Dennis	Bea Rivers	Robert Marshall
Ethel Marshall	Robert McFadden	Patricia Pringle	Laura Fleming
Jennifer Powell	Willie Briggs	William Johnson	Mitch Ellerby
Rev. Robert L. China	Aretha Clark	And other Clarendon County Residents	

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Councilman Richardson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

I Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the agenda for May 14, 2018.

II. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on April 9, 2018.

III. Service Awards Recognition

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting, Chairman Stewart, Administrator Epperson, and Linda Lemon, Director of Human Resources, presented four employees with service awards. The awards were presented as listed:

• Leroy Ellerbee	5 Years	Georgette Murray	10 Years
• Mavis Cindy McInnis	10 Years	Lebon Joye	20 Years

IV. Proclamation

Upon an Unanimous Decision, County Council Declared May 15, 2018 at Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

V. Presentation – Ms. Areatha Clark

Ms. Clark, Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Government, gave Council an update on Workforce Development. She stated that the organization provides Employer Services, Job Search, Labor Market Analysis, SC Work Keys classes, and Youth Services. Ms. Clark continued by stating that Workforce Development is an approach to economic development by creating and retaining jobs and by growing incomes through education, skills, and job training,

Ms. Clark continued by stating that Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) helps job seekers develop technical skills, academic skills, soft skills, career development, and job search skills. She continued by stating that WIOA helps businesses avert layoffs, embrace new technologies, upgrade skills and build workforce. Ms. Clark concluded her presentation by stating that Workforce Development and the Santee-Lynches COG are about making an impact in lives of residents in the region.

VI. Presentation of Proposed Budget

Mr. Anthony, Chief Financial Officer, began his presentation by reminding Council that Act 388, which passed in 2006, capped the amount of increase allowed in millage rates. He stated that the budget for second reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 2.13% for County operations. Mr. Anthony stated that we have maintained a 1% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for employees and the requested increase by Sheriff Baxley for commissioned staff.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that we have been informed that our Health insurance premiums will increase by 7% effective January 1, 2019. We are including a state mandated increase in employer retirement expense of 1%; needed to support the State's retirement system.

Mr. Anthony further stated that the General Fund operational expenditures at this point total \$21,663,011; an increase of about 3.25% over the current year's budget. As for Fire Service, we are requesting the same 2.13% increase as the General Fund. Additionally, we are requesting that the Fire service utilize \$660,000 in available fund balance to be used toward the design and construction of the new Wyboo sub-station as well as the purchase of a new fire engine. With anticipated expenses of \$3,686,587, the Fire service budget is essentially in balance.

Mr. Anthony further stated that in terms of intra-fund transfers, we are requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund maintain its level of operational support of \$50,000 for Weldon Auditorium.

Mr. Anthony continued his presentation by stating that we would also like to request a \$2,000,000 Tax Anticipation Note be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes as well as borrowing an amount not to exceed \$250,000 in the form of a five-year capital lease primarily for the purchase and equipping of new patrol vehicles within the sheriff's department, with one additional vehicle identified for another department.

Mr. Anthony concluded his presentation by stating that, at this point, the following level of expenses are reflected in the budget. For second reading the General Fund budget is out of balance by \$401,134.

• General Fund	\$21,663,011
• General County Debt	996,142
• FE Dubose VoTec	3,686,587
• Fire Debt	105,163
• Admin Complex Debt Svc	486,115
• Courthouse Debt Svc	<u>261,800</u>
Total Appropriations	\$27,423,818
• Water & Sewer (op ex)	503,075
• Weldon Auditorium (op ex)	107,815

1. **Dr. Michael Mikota**, President of Central Carolina (CCTC), began his presentation by recognizing the board members that were present. He stated that there were 575 graduates from Central Carolina in 2018 and 75 of those graduates were from Clarendon County. He continued by stating that there were 10 students from Manning High school who graduated with an Associate Degree. Dr. Mikota continued by stating that Central Carolina pinned 42 nurses on May 10 and the College is 7th in the state for the Nursing program. Dr. Mikota concluded his presentation by stating that there were 421 students from Clarendon County enrolled at Central Carolina with 37 scholars and 16 of those scholars were from Manning High School and 13 were from East Clarendon High School.

2. **Mrs. Barbara Ragin-Champagne**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District 1, began her presentation by recognizing all the board members that were present. She continued by giving Council an update on their priorities for Continuous Improvements in Academics, Fine Arts, and Athletics. Mrs. Ragin-Champagne concluded her presentation by giving Council the Initiatives of the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Angela Ramsey, Finance Director, began her presentation by stating that Clarendon 1 has a balanced budget. She continued by stating that Clarendon 1 is proposing a 2% increase to all district employees. Ms. Ramsey concluded her presentation by stating that Clarendon 1 is not requesting a Tax Anticipation Note.

Councilman Richardson thanked Mrs. Ragin-Champagne and her staff for their hard work and he stated that it is a challenge and he feels that they are up to the challenge.

3. **Mr. John Tindal**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District 2, began his presentation by recognizing all Board Members that were present. He stated that Clarendon District 2 have 4 Junior Scholars and each one of them qualifies for a \$1,000 from Francis Marion University and these students are in the eighth grade. Mr. Tindal continued by stating that Clarendon 2 had 6 students that had a perfect score on the South Carolina Ready Text Dependent Analysis Test, 8 students had a perfect score in Algebra 1, 5 in Biology 1, and 2 students were in the top 10 in Spelling Bee. He continued by stating that one student received a music scholarship from Charleston Southern. Mr. Tindal Concluded his presentation by stating that Clarendon 2 is very proud of the early degree program.

Ms. Kathy Williams, Finance Director, began her report by stating that Clarendon 2 is requesting a 2% step increase, 7% increase in fringe benefits, and a 1% increase in State Retirement. Ms. Williams concluded by stating that District 2 is not requesting a Tax Anticipation Note for this budget year.

Councilman English stated that he appreciates all that Clarendon 2 does with county dollars.

Vice Chairman Frierson thanked Mr. Tindal, Ms. Williams, and District 2 Board Members and he said that Clarendon 2 makes him proud.

Councilman Blakely stated that Clarendon 2 does a great job.

4. **Dr. Connie Dennis**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District 3, began her presentation by stating that Clarendon 3 have 3 Junior Scholars and 7 students graduated from Central Carolina Technical College with an Associate of Arts Degree.

Ms. Laura Fleming, Financial Director, began her presentation by stating that Clarendon 3 certified staff would be getting a 1% salary increase. She concluded her presentation by stating that District 3 is not requesting a Tax Anticipation Note or a Millage increase.

Councilman Blakely thanked Clarendon District 3 for the great job that they are doing and he said that they do a lot with a little of nothing.

VII. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2018-03

Chairman Stewart stated that the Public Hearing is now open for Ordinance 2018-03 - An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018, and Ending June 30, 2019, to Direct the Expenditures of said Taxes and Other funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for other Matters Related Thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be Followed During Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018, and Ending June 30, 2019.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:29 pm. He asked if there were any comments on this Ordinance.

Hearing none, He stated that the Public Hearing will close. The Public Hearing Closed at 7:30 pm.

VIII. Ordinance 2018-03

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2018-03- An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018, and Ending June 30, 2019, to Direct the Expenditures of said Taxes and Other funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for other Matters Related Thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be Followed During Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018, and Ending June 30, 2019.

IX. Ordinance 2018-04

Administrator Epperson presented Council with Ordinance 2018-04 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a Not Exceeding \$2,248,000 Water System Improvement Revenue Bond of Clarendon County, South Carolina, for the purpose of Defraying the Cost of Improvements to the County’s Water System; Prescribing the Form and details of the Bond; Providing for the Payment of the Principal of and interest on the Bond from the Revenues Derived from the Operation of the System; Creating and Establishing certain Funds and Accounts; and making other Covenants and Agreements in Connection with the Foregoing; and Other Related Matters.

- Councilman Blakely asked Administrator Epperson what percent of the County has water from a Water System.
- Administrator responded by stating that he did not know what percent has water but the number of customers has increased over the last 10 years.

On Motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2018-04 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a Not Exceeding \$2,248,000 Water System Improvement Revenue Bond of Clarendon County, South Carolina, for the purpose of Defraying the Cost of Improvements to the County’s Water System; Prescribing the Form and details of the Bond; Providing for the Payment of the Principal of and interest on the Bond from the Revenues Derived from the Operation of the System; Creating and Establishing certain Funds and Accounts; and making other Covenants and Agreements in Connection with the Foregoing; and Other Related Matters.

X. Consideration of a request from the Summerton Community Action Group

Chairman Stewart asked Administrator Epperson to explain how Hospitality Tax Fund can be used.

Administrator Epperson stated that some of the funds that were requested by the Summerton Community Action Group fall under the allotment allowed from Hospitality Tax Fund. He stated that because the funds in Hospitality Tax comes from the 1% of sales tax on food and beverage sold in the County, therefore; only a portion of the \$5,700 requested from the Summerton Community Action Group falls under the eligibility criteria. Administrator Epperson concluded by stating that \$4,200 is allowed out of Hospitality Tax Fund because the additional \$1,500 does not meet the criteria under the Hospitality Tax Fund.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval authorizing funding to the Summerton Community Action Group in the amount of \$4,200 out of the \$5,700 amount requested from the Hospitality Tax Fund.

XI. Financial Report

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his report by stating the following:

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,674,547 and Revenue figures were not available as of April 30, 2018.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had Operating Revenue of \$632,377 and Operating Expenses of \$408,864 as of April 30, 2018. He stated that after depreciation, Bond interest expense, and interest income the Water and Sewer Department had Net Utility Loss of \$62,657.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had total Revenue for the month ending April 30, 2018 of \$10,030 and total Expenses were \$96,062. He stated that after a transfer from the Hospitality Tax Fund, the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of April 2018 with a deficit of \$36,032.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of April 2018 had a Cash Balance of \$2,059,346 of which \$1,226,487 has been committed to remaining local paving projects, State Construction Projects in Progress and State Proviso Funds. He concluded his report by stating that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$832,859 as of the end of April 2018.

XII. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson began his report by giving Council an update on the following projects:

- **USDA Phase IB** – Testing and flushing are in the process of being completed and recommended valves are being installed. Anticipate having the system online very soon.
- **USDA Phase II** – Compiling necessary documentation needed for bidding. Anticipate authorization to bid and bidding to be begin soon.
- **USDA Phase IIA** - Permits to place online and operate are in hand. We anticipate having it online soon.
- **Eagle Point Connector (RIA Grant Project)** – Currently in design. Once completed, plans will be submitted to DHRC and RIA for approval.
- **Road Paving** – Paving of Home on the Green Subdivision should begin the week of May 14 or May 21. Also included in this contract, is the resurfacing of Powell Circle in the Town of Turbeville. This should begin after the 1st of June.
- **Misc**
 - a. Annual Employee trash pickup day will be Saturday, May 19th in Turbeville.
 - b. Annual E-Waste recycling day is scheduled for June 9, 2018, Administration Building Parking lot.
 - c. The Planning Commission will hold its second Community Workshop at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers after its regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting. This meeting is designed to allow the public to speak and provide information to the Planning Commission Staff about topics ranging from transportation, recreation, land use, housing, etc.

XIII. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that he will be attending the South Carolina Association Board of Directors meeting on May 24th. He also stated that he and Councilman Richardson would be attending a meeting with the Pinewood Development Group on May 29th.

XIV. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Legal briefing / Economic Development Matter in reference to a new Project, Project Fruit Basket

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session to discuss a Legal briefing / Economic Development Matter in reference to a new Project, Project Fruit Basket.

The Executive Session began at 7:54 pm.

XV. Open Session

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session.

On motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to come out of Executive Session and back into Open Session.

The Executive Session ended at 8:25 pm.

Chairman Stewart stated that in Executive Session, Council received a Legal Briefing on Economic Development and no action would be taken.

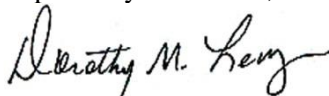
XII. Adjournment

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he asked for motion to adjourn the Council Meeting.

On Motion by Vice Chairman Frierson and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

